



Merchant & Gould

An Intellectual Property Law Firm

Direct Contact

Brent Routman
612.336.4619
broutman@merchant-gould.com

3200 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota
55402-2215 USA
TEL 612.332.5300
FAX 612.332.9081
www.merchant-gould.com

A Professional Corporation

November 30, 2004

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Bill Murray
Abbott Laboratories, Inc.
Dept. 377
Building AP6A/1
100 Abbott Park Road
Abbott Park IL 60064

Re: Withdrawal From Representation
Merchant & Gould Reference No.: M&G 08966

RECEIVED
JUN 28 2005
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Mr. Murray:

Our firm has decided to withdraw from representation of Abbott Laboratories. To facilitate the withdrawal of our representation, we have requested from the United States Patent and Trademark Office permission to withdraw as attorney of record. Enclosed please find copies of these requests. This filing with the United States Patent and Trademark Office will allow us to formally withdraw from representation. Once approval is received by Merchant & Gould, we will no longer be held responsible for your legal matters.

I am also transferring to you at this time your original files, as listed herewith, and have not retained copies. These files will be removed from our docket system, and once the Patent and Trademark Office has granted the withdrawal, we understand that you will assume responsibility for all future docket dates. Enclosed is a current Docket Report detailing all outstanding due dates for the next one year period. We have removed these deadlines from our *docket* and *annuity* system. You are advised to immediately seek new counsel so as not to jeopardize your intellectual property portfolio. Failure to respond as required by the USPTO to future docket dates could result in the loss of your intellectual property rights. We understand that you are already working with the firm of Wood, Phillips, Katz, Clark and Mortimer regarding related files. Accordingly, we believe our withdrawal would not prejudice Abbott Laboratories.

Finally, we note that you have still an outstanding balance of \$3,865.87. We trust that you will remit payment shortly.

Minneapolis/St. Paul
Denver
Seattle
Atlanta
Washington, DC

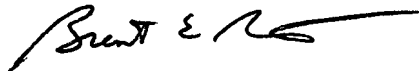
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Please acknowledge receipt and assume responsibility for these files by signing and returning the attached copy of this letter.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Brent Routman
Merchant & Gould

BR:MED:kf

Enclosures: Docketing Reports
Duplicate Copy of Client Letter
Duplicate Copy of Request to Withdraw as Attorney of Record
File List
Files

cc: Annuity Department
Client Records Supervisor
Docketing Department
USPTO

I hereby acknowledge receipt and responsibility of the files on the attached files list.

Name

Signature

Date